



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,644	12/16/2003	Jun Fujimoto	024016-00074	3541
4372	7590	11/17/2006	EXAMINER	
ARENT FOX PLLC 1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 400 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			KARKHANIS, AASHISH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/735,644	Applicant(s) FUJIMOTO, JUN	
	Examiner Aashish Karkhanis	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/8/04; 6/28/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

In this instance, the abstract is longer than 150 words.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over French et al. (U.S. Patent 5,651,548) in view of Vuong et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0247042).

Regarding Claims 1 and 17, French discloses a game management system for managing various games that utilizes a roulette wheel with a plurality of pockets formed therein and a bet board having a plurality of bet areas formed corresponding to the

Art Unit: 3714

pockets of the roulette wheel and that utilizes a chip betted on at least one of the bet areas while anticipating on which one of the pockets a roulette ball thrown in the roulette wheel stops (col. 2, lin. 67; where a roulette game has a wheel with a plurality of pockets and a bet board corresponding to pockets for betting on pockets as is notoriously well known and established in the art of roulette), second detecting means arranged on the bet board for detecting a bet position and bet value of the chip when the chip is betted on the bet area (col. 2, lins. 36 – 47), payout calculating means for calculating a payout in the game based on the position of the pocket where the roulette ball stops and the value in the game detected by the first detecting means, the bet position and the bet value of the chip detected by the second detecting means (col. 3, lins. 5 - 11), and managing means for managing a history of the game based on a result detected by the second detecting means and the payout calculated by the payout calculating means (col. 3, lins. 34 – 47). French does not disclose detecting means for detecting the location of a roulette ball. However, Vuong teaches including first detecting means for a roulette ball (para. 0065; where a roulette ball is electronically tracked with an electronic tag). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the roulette game with chip tracking of French with the method of electronically tracking a roulette ball of Vuong in order to more easily track the progress of a game electronically and increase convenience and game speed for a player.

Regarding Claims 2 – 3, French discloses a game management system including identification card issuing means for issuing an identification card identifying a

Art Unit: 3714

participant participating in the various games, and reading means for reading information identifying the participant recorded in the identification card issued by the identification card issuing means (col. 3, lins. 34 – 47; where player information is stored on an identification card), wherein the managing means manages the history of the game corresponding to the information identifying the participant read by the reading means based on the result detected by the first detecting means, the result detected by the second detecting means and the payout calculated by the payout calculating means (col. 3, lins. 39 – 47; where a player's wagering history is tracked using a chip detecting means and an identification card), wherein the identification card has a deposit reference part for referring a deposit deposited by the participant therein, and wherein the participant continues the game according to the deposit read from the deposit reference part (col. 3, lins. 47 – 54; where an identification card creates a sum deposit of a particular player's accrued winnings or losses).

Regarding Claims 4 – 5 and 9 – 10, French discloses a game management system with a roulette ball and system (col. 2, lin. 67) including a table with a plurality of antennas arranged under a table to track chips in play (col. 5, lins. 12 – 20), but does not disclose ball detection means. However, Vuong teaches a ball detection means wherein the first detecting means includes a first transmitting antenna and a first receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the pockets, a first scanning driver connected to both the first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna, a second transmitting antenna and a second receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the pockets, so as to cross the

Art Unit: 3714

first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna at right angle (para. 0065; where an antenna within a roulette ball and an antenna outside of a roulette ball track a ball, and may be in any configuration that is able to successfully detect a ball, including right angles); and a second scanning driver connected to both the second transmitting antenna and the second receiving antenna, wherein the first detecting means detects the pocket where the roulette ball stops by detecting a change of receiving state in electric wave detected by the first receiving antenna and the second receiving antenna, when scanning electric wave is sent from the first transmitting antenna by the first scanning driver and is sent from the second transmitting antenna by the second scanning driver (para. 0065; where a ball is located using electromagnetic radio waves). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the roulette game with chip tracking using a plurality of antennas to track chips in play of French with the method of electronically tracking a roulette ball of Young to create a ball tracking system where a plurality of antennas are used to electronically track a roulette ball in play just as chips are tracked electronically in play, where both a roulette ball and gaming chips are simply gaming elements in motion during a game within a certain gaming space that both include embedded electronic tracking devices, in order to more easily track the progress of a game electronically and increase convenience and game speed for a player.

Regarding Claims 6 – 8, French discloses a game management system for roulette, but does not disclose wireless identification information in a ball. However, Vuong teaches including identification information recording means arranged in the

roulette ball, identification information identifying the roulette ball being recorded in the identification information recording means, wherein the identification information includes at least information in connection with origin of the roulette ball, a place where the roulette ball can be utilized and a kind of the roulette ball (para. 0065; where a roulette ball may be individually tracked with a unique serial number), wherein the identification information recording means comprises a subminiature wireless ID tag embedded in the roulette ball, and wherein the identification information recorded in the subminiature wireless ID tag is read by the first detecting means (para. 0065), wherein it is determined whether the roulette ball can be utilized in the game or not, based on the identification information read by the first detecting means (para. 0065; where a serial number in a roulette ball may be used to determine if a roulette ball may be used in a particular game to increase security or ensure that defective balls are not used). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the roulette game with chip tracking of French with the method of electronically tracking a roulette ball of Young in order to more easily track the progress of a game electronically and increase convenience and game speed for a player.

Regarding Claims 11 – 12, French discloses a game management system including chip information recording means arranged in the chip, chip information being recorded in the chip information recording means; wherein the chip information includes at least information in connection with a specific number for identifying the chip, bet value and a place where the chip is utilized, wherein the chip information recording

means comprises a subminiature wireless ID tag embedded in the chip, and wherein the chip information recorded in the subminiature wireless ID tag is read by the second detecting means (col. 2, lins. 3 – 34).

Regarding Claims 13 – 16, French discloses a game management including a measuring means arranged corresponding to each of the bet areas in the bet board (col. 2, lins. 36 – 47; col. 6, lins. 12 – 14), but does not disclose a measuring means that calculates a number of the chips based on unit weight of one chip, wherein the measuring means comprises a semiconductor pressure sensor or determining whether the chip is forged or not by comparing the calculated number of the chips by the measuring means with the result detected by the second detecting means, when the calculated number of the chips does not coincide with the result detected by the second detecting means. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the electronic chip tracking system of French with an additional weight sensor using any type of specific sensor, including a semiconductor pressure sensor, and performing a weight per chip security check in order to further increase security for chips and prevent unauthorized use of chips.

Regarding Claim 18, French discloses a game management system for managing various games conducted in game arcades installed in a casino arranged in a hotel, the game management system including an identification card issuing device installed in the hotel for issuing an identification card which is issued to a guest of the hotel when checking in to identify the guest, the guest being able to utilize various services provided in the hotel by using the identification card; a reading device installed

Art Unit: 3714

in the casino for reading information identifying the guest recorded in the identification card issued by the identification card issuing device; and a managing device for managing a history of the game conducted in the game arcades corresponding to the information identifying the guest read by the reading device (col. 5, lns. 45 – 57; where a card is issued to a player and may be issued at any location by a casino, and further is used to identify the player), wherein the identification card has a deposit reference part for referring a deposit deposited by the guest of the hotel therein, and wherein the guest continues the game according to the deposit read from the deposit reference part (col. 3, lins. 34 – 47; where a player's deposit reference wagering history is used for providing a player with benefits while playing).

Regarding Claim 20, French discloses a game management system including a game medium issuing device for issuing a game medium utilizable in the game arcades by using the identification card (col. 3, lins. 34 – 47; where comps may be awarded to players in the form of chips based on player history as is well known and established in the art).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 4,396,193: Roulette ball detection.

U.S. Patent 5,588,650: Roulette ball detection.

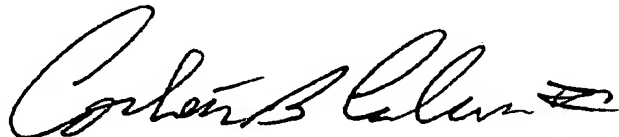
U.S. Patent 5,785,321: Roulette chip tracking.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aashish Karkhanis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2774. The examiner can normally be reached on 0800-1630 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ARK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corbett B. Coburn", followed by a stylized flourish or mark.

**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**